

The War Fifty Years Ago

The Armies of General Meade and Robert E. Lee In a Great War Game---Confronted In the Wilderness, Leaders Hesitate to Attack---Federal Flank Movement Thwarted by Lee---Breastworks Spring Up Over Night---Confederates Attack at Knoxville, Tenn. A Storming Column Reaches the Parapet of Fort Sanders---Hand Grenades and Canister Cut Down the Assaults---Repulsed In Fifteen Minutes.

ON the eve of Thanksgiving, fifty years ago, the Army of the Potomac broke camp and crossed the Rapidan to seek battle. Its commander, General George G. Meade, intended to surprise the Confederates under General R. E. Lee at Orange Court House, a point twenty miles from the place of crossing, but rainy weather came on and parts of the field of operation were turned into impassable swamps. At the end of two days the Federals were lined up on the east bank of Mine run, a tribu-

ture. Besides, the flank movement of Warren sweeping down the other side of the run would make those intrenchments useless.

The troops on the main line were under command of General John Sedgwick and General W. H. French. They were confident of winning a Thanksgiving victory.

Warren Checkmated.

All depended upon Warren's success in surprising the enemy's right flank. Warren had 20,000 infantry, with guns and wagons. A freezing rain fell during the whole march, and at the

for the control of Knoxville. It fell to General James Longstreet's corps to try to wrest it once more from the Federal grasp. The army of General A. E. Burnside had but recently jumped into the tracks of a retreating Confederate army and hadn't gained a firm foothold when, on Nov. 29, 1863, Longstreet's veterans stormed Fort Sanders, the key to the Knoxville defenses.

Ten days were passed by Longstreet in preparation for the attack. The men in the fort surmised the enemy's plans and were not idle. Every foot of the exterior slope was pared off so as to leave no foothold; the ditch was widened and riflemen stood on duty along the parapet to welcome the assailants. Lieutenant S. N. Benjamin commanded the artillery in the fort. Along the front of the fort was a field of pine stumps where the trees had been sawed off two feet above the ground. Benjamin, with his men, wound telegraph wire about the stumps at just the height to trip soldiers on the march.

Depend on Their Bayonets.

The Confederates attacked at the first streak of dawn. It was on Sunday. A few signal shells were fired, and then suddenly three lines of gray, 1,000 Mississippians and 2,000 Georgians of General Lafayette McLaws' division, rushed from their cover, 200 yards from the goal, and headed for it double quick. They moved on noiselessly without their accustomed yell and not firing a shot, but with bayonets ready for execution the instant the parapet should be reached.

When fairly under way the front ranks wavered, many going down on the tangled wire. Fort Sanders' guns opened with canister, and the riflemen plied their bullets upon the assailants. But the holdup was only temporary. The rear ranks crushed the wire beneath their tread and pressed on.

At the Deadly Bastion.

The northwest bastion of the fort formed a sharp salient and reached out, as it were, toward the Confederate lines. In their mad haste to be first on the works the heads of the three columns converged upon the angle. At the edge of the ditch everything came to a standstill, but many of the assailants were cool enough to fire through the embrasures at Benjamin's artillerymen and at the riflemen upon the parapets.

The ruling spirit among the defenders was Benjamin. About 300 riflemen belonging to the Seventy-ninth New York Highlanders, the One Hundredth Pennsylvania (Roundheads) and the Twentieth Michigan were stationed along the parapets. An awkward wait it was for the Confederates under the muzzles of Benjamin's guns after they had charged to the edge of the moat.

Officers and color bearers leaped into the ditch and tried to scale the bank. The men imitated their valor, leaped down and ranged themselves at the base to make human scaling ladders, and some few climbed on the shoulders of their fellows until they reached the top. Three battle flags had been made fast on the parapet, and again and again the Confederates around them were shot down.

Hand Grenades and Canister.

During this crisis Benjamin resorted to hand grenades. A captain of the Highlanders held a blazing brand while Benjamin cut the fuses of small shells, lit them at the brand, and then tossed the missiles one by one over into the luckless crowd in the ditch. His cannon swept the ditch with canister once or twice, but fresh assailants poured in until it was crowded. For the fellows penned up there was no way of escaping the murderous hand grenades except by retreat. This at length they did sullenly.

The Confederate prisoners taken from the ditch and their killed and wounded outnumbered the whole garrison three to one. The unhurt prisoners numbered 250. The dead and wounded in the ditch were 200, nearly all of the wounded being mortally hurt. The stump field in front was also covered with victims who fell in the charge. Longstreet's total loss was 813.

Amazed at their repulse where they expected an easy triumph, the Confederate leaders speculated for some time about following up the charge with fresh columns, but changed their

Confederates Storm Fort Sanders. Many an incidental fight took place



GENERAL HENRY HETH, C. S. A., AND GENERAL R. H. ANDERSON, C. S. A., DIVISION LEADERS AT MINE RUN.

tary of the Rapidan, with Lee on the west bank in the shelter of intrenchments. The works which the Confederates had hastily built, when viewed through field glasses appeared so slight that Meade ordered an attack all along the line to take place the morning of Nov. 30 at 8 o'clock.

Meanwhile General G. K. Warren had been sent out with a strong flanking column to ascend Mine run, pass its headwaters and strike down the west bank, rolling up the Confederate line like a scroll. Owing to the swamps formed by the heavy rains, Warren's march was long delayed. Withdrawing from the position they occupied on the east bank of the stream, his troops marched east, then south, then turned west at the head waters of Mine run. All these delays gave Lee ample warning of what was to come. His active scouts had reported the Yankees crossing the Rapidan, and two divisions of infantry, led by General Henry Heth and General R. H. Anderson, had promptly occupied the main roads over which the enemy would advance.

The Great Wilderness.

Two sharp engagements in which the Confederates got the worst of it showed that the Federal leader was marching a strong force into the angle between the Rapidan and Mine run, the Virginia wilderness of gory memories. The movement of Meade could have but one meaning, an attack in force upon Orange Court House, the junction of two fine wagon roads and a railroad leading from the Federal camps to Richmond.

When the sun went down on Nov. 29 the Federals on the original line east of Mine run looked for a speedy victory on the morrow. They supposed that the Confederates on the west bank were only the straggling divisions which had vainly tried to stay the Federal march up from the Rapidan and that the intrenchments seen from across the stream were flimsy struc-

headwaters of Mine run General J. E. B. Stuart's Confederate cavalry harassed the marching column continually. Warren's vanguard was led by Colonel Nelson A. Miles, who plunged through ambush, swamp and thicket up to the very intrenchments of the enemy, for there were intrenchments on that flank of Lee's position as well as on his main front.

Warren's scouts of Stuart's approach to his unguarded right flank. Lee had dispatched Anderson and Heth to intercept the column. The region was heavily timbered, and with logs and limbs they began to barricade against the Federal advance. Lining up his brigades for the charge, Warren awaited the hour set for the grand attack. Daylight revealed a heavy line of breastworks and fortified batteries which had been finished in the night at right angles with the stream.

Facing Awful Carnage.

"It is worse than the stone wall at Fredericksburg," was the verdict of the men.

In anticipation of a fate like that which befell the heroes on the slope of Marne's heights in December, 1870, they pinned their names upon their overcoats while awaiting the word to go forward. But just as the buglers rode out to sound the charge a dispatch came over the field wire, "Suspend the attack."

On the main line Sedgwick's batteries had opened fire in the morning and were answered gun for gun by the Confederates. Still confident, the Federal soldiers were ready to charge, but their leaders hesitated after hearing that Warren's flank movement had been disclosed to the enemy and a bloody welcome awaited his advance. Lee expected Meade to attack and delayed taking the initiative himself. His opponent suddenly vanished over night.

Confederates Storm Fort Sanders.

Many an incidental fight took place



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mind and called the battle off. As it turned out, the actual clash of arms lasted only fifteen minutes.

Wit of Beau Brummel.

Beau Brummel's popularity depended less upon his dress than upon his perfect self possession, his grace of bearing, his wit, his good looks and his good humor, according to Leon H. Vincent's "Dandies and Men of Letters." He was a handsome fellow, although the shape of his nose had been "modified" by the kick of a horse.

"His reputation for bright and caustic sayings was very great. The industrious biographer has collected all he could lay hands on, and there is life in them yet. Take, for example, this: Byg, one of the dandies, was blessed

with a remarkable head of hair which curled naturally. Brummel saw him one day in a gig with a French poodle by his side and saluted him with, 'Ah, Byng, how do you do?—a family vehicle, I see.' And from that time on, we are told, the well haired dandy was known as 'Poodle Byng.'"

REALTY CHANGES

Moline Trust and Savings bank to Alfred C. Brown, north 40 feet of south 600 feet O. L. 15 Highland addition, \$100.

Edward H. Guyer and Charles E. White to John F. Schave, lot 8 block 136 East Moline, \$400.

Mary M. Gagli to Malcom A. Carlson, lot 6 Le Claire's reserve in section 35-18-1W.

F. C. A. Denkmann by heirs of City of Rock Island, lot 15, block 17 South Park, First addition, Rock Island, \$800.

People's Savings Bank and Trust company to Charles E. Ingelson, lot 3, Glen Oaks, Moline, \$650.

Furne O. Drury and wife to Edward Huntington, lot 24, block 164, East Moline.

Edward Huntington to Roy Piper, lot 24, block 164 E. Moline, \$600.

Henry A. James to Carl Youngren, lot 3, block 2, Simonson & James' addition, Moline, \$350.

Louis Mosenfelder et ux to William Drensen and wife, lot 24-25, Rodman heights, South Rock Island, \$1.

Helena Mattson and husband to Charles J. Mattson & Sherman N. Johnson, lots 3-7-8-9-10-11, Mattson's Fifty-fifth Street addition, Moline, \$1.

Helena Mattson and husband to Charles J. Mattson and wife, lot 6, Mattson's Fifty-fifth Street addition, Moline, \$350.

People's Savings Bank and Trust company to James Hoshorn, lot 37-38, Glen Oaks addition, Moline.

People's Savings Bank and Trust company to Robert Van Wenterghen, lot 34 Glen Oaks addition, Moline.

Hugh E. Curtis to Frederick Weyerhaeuser, part section 36-18-2W, \$1.

Ralph Rich to D. A. Jones, lot 9, block 7, Acme addition, Moline, \$1.

Jean A. Pope and Gale P. Pope to Charles S. Pope, lot 3, block 190, East Moline.

Amos M. Godfrey and wife to John D. Kaden, lot 15, block 8, Columbia park addition, Rock Island, \$2,500.

John Drensen to Henry Drensen, northwest quarter section 2-17-2W, \$1.

William G. McConnell and wife to

Wallace W. McConnell, sec. 19-19-3E, lot 127 and 128 Glen Oaks, Moline, \$2,250.

Henry Drensen to John Drensen, northwest quarter section 2-17-2W, \$1.

Doris Butzow to Helen B. Ross, one-half interest in lot 3, block 169, East Moline, \$1.

Harriet K. Griffith by executor to Frank Vyncke, lot 3, Mrs. L. N. Warner's First addition, East Moline, \$475.

Carstensen & Darr to Hugh E. Curtis, part lot 6-7, block 9, Spencer & Cases addition, Rock Island, \$1.

Maude E. and George Roberts to Mary E. Hergert, undivided one-eighth lot 4, block 2, Milan, \$1.

John Q. Bosseiman to Margaret J. Kennedy, undivided one-eighth lot 4, block 2, Milan, \$50.

Margaret J. Kennedy and Mary E. Hergert to Fred R. Wells and wife, lot 4, block 2, Milan, \$600.

O. G. Cooling to C. B. Marshall, part O. L. 27, section 35-18-2W, \$1.

James Bruce Wright to W. W. Bouslough and wife, northwest quarter section 2-17-2W, Rock Island, \$1.

William G. McConnell to Frank O. McConnell, section 19-19-3E, section 24-19-2E, \$1.

People's Savings Bank and Trust

company to Axel A. Carlson, \$2,250, lot 127 and 128 Glen Oaks, Moline, \$2,250.

William Jaeschke and wife to Amanda Duff and husband, lot 2, block 5, Pitts G. & Pitts Second addition, Moline, \$4,000.

People's Savings Bank and Trust company to Anton M. Johnson, lot 19, Glen Pals addition, Moline, \$650.

Eliza Lewis to Leon Callewaert, lot 2-1-3, block 152, East Moline, \$4,000.

George W. Duffin to Warren Duffin, section 2-17-2W, \$1.

Managua, Nicaragua—Two former presidents of Nicaragua, Adam Cardenas and General Machado, and two prominent liberals, Francisco Aguilar and Santiago Arguello, were among the senators elected Tuesday.

Many school children suffer from constipation, which is often the cause of seeming stupidity at lessons. Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets are an ideal medicine to give a child, for they are mild and gentle in their effect, and will cure even chronic constipation. Sold by all druggists.—(Adv.)

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